



Allergy Management Guidelines

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Position Statement:

The State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council supports the proposed legislation requiring guidelines for life-threatening allergies in Iowa schools.

Position

It is the Position of the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council, the voice of the young citizens of Iowa, that (INSERT BILL NAME HERE), require the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, to develop and make available to each school board guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies no later than July 1, 2019. Each school board would be required to implement a policy based on the guidelines developed by both the Department of Public Health and Iowa Board of Education.

Rationale

In America, 5.9 million kids have life threatening food allergies. That's nearly 1 in 13 children. According to the Food Allergy Research and Education Organization, it has been found that 1 in 3 children with food allergies are bullied at school directly because of their allergy. A 2010 study by doctors at Mount Sinai Medical Center concluded that "Bullying, teasing, and harassment of children with food allergy seems to be common, frequent, and repetitive. These actions pose emotional and physical risks that should be addressed in food allergy management." Many teachers, and fellow students are also unaware of how they should handle and help avoid allergic reactions. According to the CDC, 1 in 5 students with allergies will have a life threatening allergic reaction while at school. This is a very high percentage of reactions that needs to be reduced. Throughout Iowa and several other states, many educational institutions lack guidelines and measures to prevent reactions, educate teachers, and prepare for students with food allergies.

In 2011 the CDC developed voluntary guidelines to provide practical information and recommendations for each of the five priority areas that should be addressed in each school's or ECE program's Food Allergy Management Prevention Plan. Several states have implemented legislation including similar guidelines, including, Illinois, Michigan, Texas, Vermont, and several more. Implementing guidelines provides a safer environment for students with allergies throughout all Iowan schools.

Recommended Action

The Allergy Management Guidelines called for in (INSERT BILL NAME) have been proposed before within the state of Iowa. As advocates for the youth of Iowa, SIYAC would like to address the need for the State Board of Education and the Department of Health, to develop and make available to each school board guidelines for the management of students with life-threatening food allergies. We ask that the General Assembly consider supporting this legislation during the 2018 legislative session.

Sources

Food Allergy Research and Education Organization (FARE):

<https://www.foodallergy.org/sites/default/files/migrated-files/file/bullying-facts.pdf>

Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Connection Team (FAACT): https://www.foodallergyawareness.org/education/bullying-16/bullying_resources-12/

Official Publication of The American College of Allergy, Asthma And Immunology:
[http://www.annallergy.org/article/S1081-1206\(10\)00733-7/fulltext](http://www.annallergy.org/article/S1081-1206(10)00733-7/fulltext)

Centers for Disease And Control (CDC):
https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/foodallergies/pdf/teachers_508_tagged.pdf